

# Habitat Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Monument Canyon

**Proposal Number:** 1087

**DWR Region:** Southeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** BLM

**County:** San Juan

**Project Manager:** Brian Keating

**PM Phone:** 4356133717

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 07/01/2008

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**Project Location:** Monument Canyon is located SE of Blanding, UT. It is a NE canyon off of Montezuma Canyon.

**Project Description:** The Monument Canyon restoration would utilize mechanical thinning and pile burying techniques on approximately 1,104 acres. Portions of the project area (approximately 82 acres) would also be reseeded with native grasses and shrubs.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Past fire suppression and grazing practices in the western United States have contributed to a build-up of highly flammable, decadent fuels on much of the public land in southeastern Utah. This over-accumulation of fuel has led to the degradation of the ecosystem including wildlife habitat, biodiversity, watershed quality and quantity, and rangeland. Fire suppression activities and continued expansion of urban areas within the last century have also reduced both the quality and quantity of historic range available for local big game herds. Some of the same lands that encompass prime big game habitat are becoming attractive to urbanites for areas to build first and/or second homes, and many of the higher elevation wildland/urban expansion areas in the desert southwest have encroached into elk, deer, and antelope habitat. Fuels reduction in WUI areas with catastrophic wildfire potential decreases the likelihood of loss of life, property, and natural resources to wildfires. Firefighter safety is enhanced, wildfire suppression costs are reduced, and scenic quality as well as natural resource goals can be met by accomplishing long-term fuels reduction objectives.

**Objectives:** The goal of this project is to improve and protect public health and safety by reducing the fire threat in Monument Canyon while at the same time contributing to the restoration of ecological health in these areas. Homes and other buildings in the wildland-urban interface could be at risk from high intensity and fast-moving fires or from flooding and/or mudflows resulting from fire damage to large stands of trees.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** The Monument Canyon project area is located within grazing allotments within the Monticello Field Office. In addition, the project falls within a focus area of the UPCD for Southeastern Utah.

**Potential Risks:** There are approximately ten homes on private lands adjacent to public lands, with several at high risk from wildland fire due to existing fuel loads. Potential risks to adjacent resources of improvement would be minimal.

**Proposed Methods:** The Monument Canyon restoration would utilize mechanical thinning and burning techniques on approximately 1,104 acres. Project implementation would occur over a period of two to four years depending on budgets. The first phase of the project will include thinning units 1 & 2. Unit 1 will be thinned and piled in the fall of 2007, which encompasses 490 acres. Unit 2 will be thinned and piled in the spring of 2008 and encompasses 614 acres. The slash piles from both Unit 1 and 2 will be burned in the fall of 2008. Seeding with native grasses and shrubs will occur along the roadways (approximately 82 acres) to create a potential firebreak and reduce the threat of introduced weeds from spreading due to vehicle traffic.

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**Shapefile Name:** Monument Canyon.shp

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:** 12/04/2007

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Details:** The BLM fuels program will utilize a series of rangeland plots and fuels transects to monitoring the effectiveness of the fuels treatments and subsequent revegetation treatments. All monitoring activities will involve quantitative and qualitative techniques and be repeated annually for the first three years following treatment. All research studies will result in reports that will be available for other agencies and partners.

**Cons. Outreach Details:**

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

# Habitat Project Proposal

Mule Deer

Raptors

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	1104
<b>Total</b>	<b>1104</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM WUI	\$594,270.00		\$0.00
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$8,200.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$602,470.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

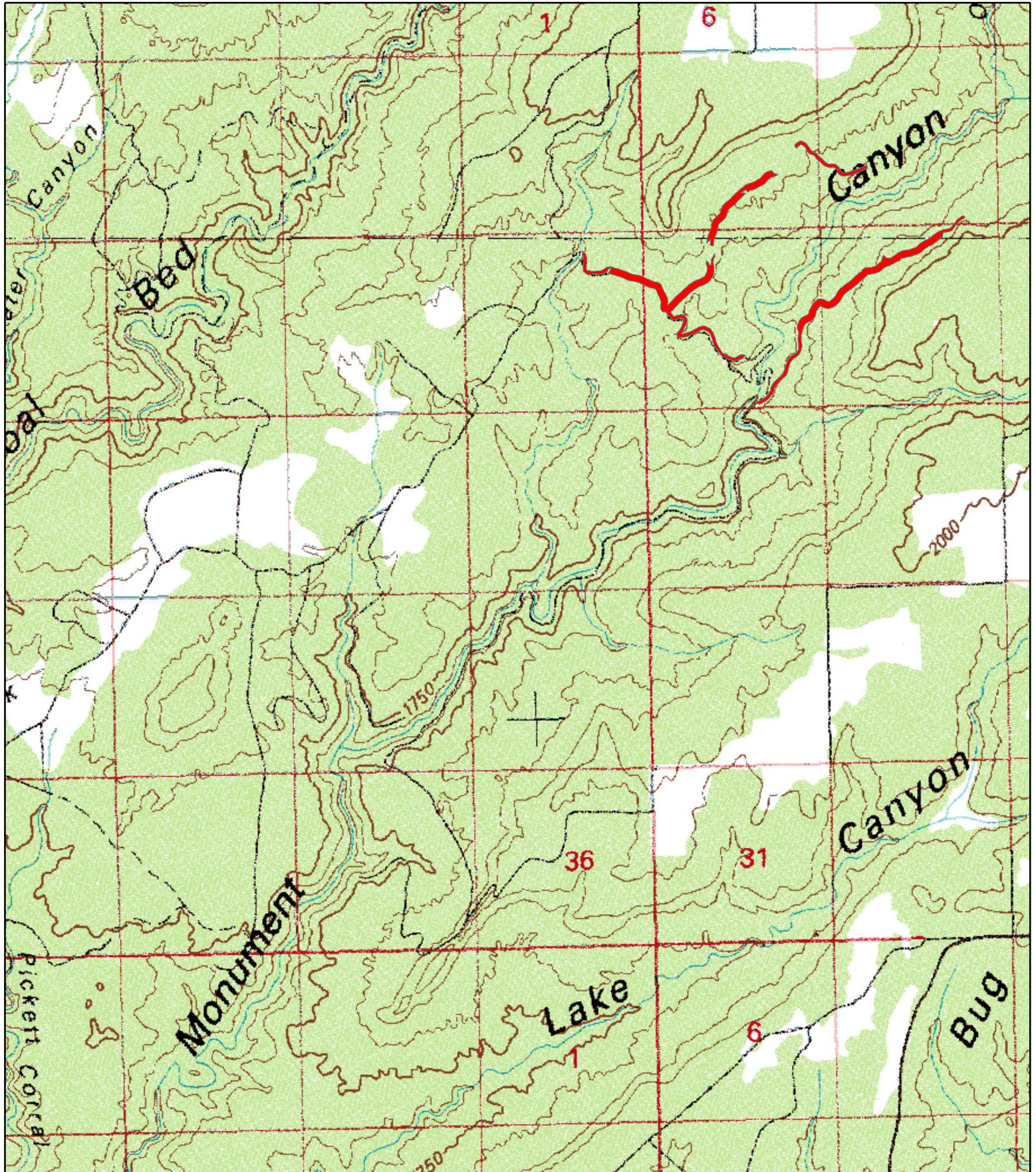
## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	82 ac @ \$100/ac	\$8,200.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	Thinning and Pile	\$0.00	\$546,610.00
Personal Services	burning and seed application	\$0.00	\$47,660.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,200.00</b>	<b>\$594,270.00</b>

**Project Map:**



# Monument Canyon



0.8 0.4 0 0.8 Miles

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